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ABSTRACT

The search for Afro-American books was launched to find books which would give black children a sense of dignity and self-respect for their heritage and which would help white children appreciate their fellow Americans. The shortage of such books is discussed. Criteria is given for selecting and for evaluating children's books, especially in reference to the books included in this bibliography. Both white and Afro-American authors are represented with 44 books of fiction, and 17 nonfiction books annotated. Each reference includes the name and address of the publisher and the price of the book. Fifteen bibliographies of children's books about Afro-Americans are listed. (DR)

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Selected Books about the afro-american for Very Young Children K-2

by Jean E. Britton

PS 002916

September 1969

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Education
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FOREWORD

To provide children in their early learning experience with reading materials which realistically acknowledge the existence and the value of diversity in our society is an important responsibility of educators today. The Department is pleased to present this bibliography of such books for children in kindergarten, first, and second grades. It is more than just another "integrated" booklist; its titles feature black children and adults as unstereotyped main characters in actual life situations, and the literary quality of each book has been a factor in its choice.

We are indebted to the compiler, Mrs. Jean Britton, a bibliographer and teacher, for allowing us to reprint her work. A quotation perhaps best sums up our reason for doing so:

> Across the country, 6,340,000 nonwhite children are learning to read and to understand the American way of life in books which either omit them entirely or scarcely mention them. There is no need to elaborate upon the damage--much of it irreparable--to the Negro child's personality.
>
> But the impact of all-white books upon 39,600,000 white children is probably even worse. Although his light skin makes him one of the world's minorities, the white child learns from his books that he is the kingfish. There seems little chance of developing the humility so urgently needed for world cooperation ...as long as our children are brought up on gentle doses of racism through their books.
>
> --Nancy Larrick, former president of the International Reading Association, in *Saturday Review*, September 11, 1965

We urge superintendents, elementary school principals, librarians, and other appropriate individuals and agencies to make every effort to place books such as those listed here within easy reach of all young children.

Neil V. Sullivan
Commissioner of Education
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Roxbury Basic Reading Program
Wheelock College Library, Boston
Winthrop School Library Volunteer Program, Roxbury

Several of these educators have requested anonymity, so I have refrained from mentioning names. This does not, however, diminish my sincere appreciation for their assistance.

Special thanks should go to Harry L. Johnson for the cover design and Patricia Allen for editorial assistance.

Jean E. Britton

INTRODUCTION

It is a well-known fact that good literature relating to the life of the black, inner-city child is scarce, although publishers are increasing the number of books each year. In 1965, Dr. Nancy Larrick[1] concluded from her survey of trade book publishers that only four-fifths of one per cent of children's books published from 1962 through 1964 were about black Americans living today. That is a total of forty-four books. Settings of 305 additional books with black heroes were either placed in other countries or in a previous era.

In December 1967, Dharathula Millender[2] concluded that there was a sufficient supply of Afro-American fiction and biography for upper elementary and high school pupils, but still a shortage of good Afro-American literature for kindergarten and primary grades.

The purpose of my search was to find books which would give black children a sense of dignity and self-respect for their heritage, and which would at the same time provide suburban children with knowledge and appreciation of their fellow Americans. The best way to get the most accurate information about such books seemed to be to consult members of the black community themselves. While previous bibliographies and library research were valuable aids, talks with teachers, educators, and librarians in Roxbury were most enlightening in answering the following questions:

1) What is the quality and quantity of books about Afro-Americans?
2) Is the characterization of black heroes acceptable to the children? Are the heroes convincing or are they stereotyped?
3) What types of books are needed which do not currently exist?

I found the number of young children's books about Afro-Americans that can be called real literature is so small that teachers feel there is no choice. Many more books with black heroes are needed, especially books with city settings. They should be realistic, not saccharine. Out of approximately forty-four titles familiar to children in Roxbury, about eighteen are extremely popular (these are marked * in the bibliography). Joan Lexau's *I Should Have Stayed in Bed* and books by Ezra Jacks Keats are favorites. The Lexau book is useful in getting the children to understand their feelings; it stimulates discussion.

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1. Larrick, Nancy, "All-White World of Children's Books" in *Saturday Review*, September 11, 1965, p. 63
2. Millender, Dharathula, "Through a Glass Darkly" in *Library Journal*, December 15, 1967, p. 4571

Children like books that are honest and are about real people--people who have problems and joys similar to theirs. They are quick to detect "token" integration in book illustrations--one black face in a crowd or a Caucasian child whose face has been colored brown. Therefore, it is not surprising that they like the reality of books with photographic illustrations. An encouraging trend in illustrations is noticeable in the newer books, such as *Sam* by Ann Herbert Scott and *Evan's Corner* by Elizabeth Starr Hill, which bring out the child's individual as well as his Afro-American characteristics in a warm, attractive way.

The importance of inter-ethnic books in the early grades cannot be overstressed. One teacher brought out how important it is for even the very young children to see black characters in books so that they will realize this is normal. She mentioned that one class of older black children who had previously read from all-white books snickered when first shown books with black children in them. They were embarrassed and did not know how to react in this situation, for they had already concluded that black children weren't supposed to be in books.

Biography is of little interest to younger children, black or white, unless the heroes are familiar to them. Booker T. Washington's experiences seem remote to children in Roxbury, but they are eager for information on Martin Luther King. The emphasis on character development and abstract goals rather than on action is less appealing to younger children generally, thus making it difficult for a writer to sustain interest without sacrificing authenticity. "Discovery Books" by the Garrard Publishing Company are one rare exception.

Several types of books not existing currently are greatly needed for primary grades. Teachers feel the lack of suitable history books. There is a major need for short, well-written integrated adventure stories which would appeal to third grade boys: about sophisticated city situations, perhaps a boy visiting a friend in another city; sports stories; camp stories; and those with farm backgrounds--all reflecting normal life situations.

Criteria for evaluating children's books about black people are the same as for other children's books--good literary style; a theme with which the child can easily identify; a well-shaped story with a satisfying and conclusive ending; a story which moves; a story which has wholesome standards and convincing characters.

However, additional criteria are needed in order to determine if black people have been honestly characterized and pictured. These guidelines were followed in evaluating books in this survey:

1) Are the characters natural or distorted?
2) Are the characters referred to by names which humiliate, names such as *boy*, *darkie*, *nigger*?
3) Do the characters speak acceptable English or are they using an artificial dialect?
4) Are the fictionalized characters placed in present-day settings or are they still back in plantation days or ancient Africa?

5) Are the illustrations warm and attractive or are they caricatures, making fun of typical Negro features such as kinky hair?
6) Is the general tone of the book condescending? Would it bring out feelings of superiority or inferiority?
7) Does the book present interracial situations in a democratic way without overstressing differences of race, class distinction, education, or religion?

Detailed discussion of these criteria is omitted here. However, background information for many of these points may be found in some other bibliographies, notably *We Build Together*, published by the National Council of Teachers of English under the chairmanship of Charlemae Rollins.

All the books in this survey have been read and annotated by the author. The bibliography includes books written for children in kindergarten through second grade. With the exception of some African folk tales and factual books on Africa, books whose setting is outside the continental United States have been excluded. Also omitted are multi-racial books in which a black child is simply part of a group and not a principal character. Selections were made from books published through April 1968.

I cannot recommend highly enough the 1967 edition of *We Build Together*, which includes books for children in grades K-9. Its editor, Mrs. Charlemae Rollins, is a prominent Afro-American librarian of long experience. Books were chosen for this bibliography according to two major criteria: their value as literature and their honest characterization of Afro-Americans. More titles by Afro-American authors are included in *We Build Together* than in any other bibliography I saw.

It was a surprise to find that although many acceptable books are known to educators, few children see them. A partial explanation seems to be that the books are available in libraries but not in schools. The School Library Volunteer Projects, which have been in existence only two years and have set up excellent general collections of children's books in the public schools, are now beginning to include more books about Afro-Americans. While suburban libraries visited contain a good number of books about Afro-Americans, few are by black authors.

To buy every book on this list, exclusive of bibliographies, would cost less than $200. Suburbs and cities alike would find this a small price to pay for the understanding this collection could engender. We can no longer afford to let children of any color be brought up on "gentle doses of racism through their books."

Jean E. Britton

September 1969

SELECTED BOOKS ABOUT THE AFRO-AMERICAN FOR VERY YOUNG CHILDREN

Key

* indicates that children in Roxbury are very enthusiastic about the book.

"net" indicates the cost of library bindings with discount. Other prices are list prices. All prices were checked in the 1968 edition of *Books in Print*.

"OOP" indicates that the book is apparently out of print but may be still available from current local stock; it was listed in the 1967 but not the 1968 edition of *Books in Print*.

FICTION

Aardema, Vera, Compiler TALES FROM THE STORY HAT, AFRICAN FOLK TALES Illus. by Elton Fax. New York: Coward-McCann, 1960. (2-6) $3.29 net
Folk tales are part of the rich cultural heritage of Africa. They show the philosophy, wit, and wisdom of its people. Tricksy Rabbit became Br'er Rabbit in the United States, and Anansi (spider) became Br'er Anansi of the West Indies. While some of the stories about men seem too cruel or subtle for the youngest children, animal stories such as "Nansi and the Eagle" are delightful. A teacher could find several stories suitable for reading to first and second graders in this collection.

Arkhurst, Joyce Cooper retells THE ADVENTURES OF SPIDER, WEST AFRICAN FOLK TALES Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1964. (K-3) $2.97 net
The retelling of "How Spider Got a Thin Waist" and other stories is well adapted for young listeners. Spider's antics are humorously illustrated.

Beim, Jerrold SWIMMING HOLE Illus. by Louis Darling. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1950. (K-3) OOP $2.94 net
Larry and his four friends have fun at the swimming hole. A new boy arrives who refuses to swim with Larry because he is black. When the new boy is teased because of his sunburn, he realizes that skin color doesn't matter. Larry contributes to the solution.

Beim, Lorraine and Jerrold TWO IS A TEAM Illus. by Ernest Crichlow. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1945. (K-2) $2.75
Two boys, one black, one white, who are good friends, quarrel over the right way to build a coaster. Each boy finds that two heads are better than one.

*Bonsall, Crosby THE CASE OF THE HUNGRY STRANGER An *I Can Read* Mystery. Illus. by the author. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1963. (K-2) $1.95; $2.19 net

Mr. Bonsall's story bubbles over with humor. Wizard is the leader of a small gang which includes Skinny, a black child. They solve the mystery of who ate Mrs. Meech's blueberry pie by looking for people with blue teeth. Mrs. Meech gives them the other pie as a reward, and they all smile a deep blue smile.

*Bonsall, Crosby THE CASE OF THE CAT'S MEOW 1965. (K-3) $2.50; 2.57 net
In this joyful tale the gang solves the mystery of missing Mildred, Snitch's cat. She's off having kittens.

Bonsall, Crosby THE CASE OF THE DUMB BELLS 1966. (K-3) $2.50; 2.57 net
The mystery of the ringing doorbells and telephones is solved when the gang finds they got their wires crossed.

Bontemps, Arna, Compiler GOLDEN SLIPPERS An Anthology of Negro Poetry for Young Readers. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1941. (K-8) OOP $3.95

A fine collection of poetry, folksongs, ballads and spirituals which have been selected primarily for their entertainment value. Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Effie Lee Newsome, and Countee Cullen are among the poets represented. The book includes poems about "Waking Up," "Clothes Line and Water Pails," "Hard Work," "Chariot Wheels," "Brown Boy and Girl," "Big Cities," and "Folks."

Brooks, Gwendolyn BRONZEVILLE BOYS AND GIRLS Illus. by Ronni Solbert. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1956. (K-6) $2.50; $2.57 net
Simple, touching poems expressing children's thoughts by a Pulitzer Prize winning Afro-American.

Brown, Jeanette Perkins RONNIE'S WISH Illus. by Jean Martinez. New York: Friendship Press, 1954. (N-3) paper $.95; $1.50
Ronnie wishes he were "big"; then he could ride on escalators and be seen over the counters in a store. After a trip to the zoo with an understanding neighbor, he finds being small has its advantages.

Burden, Shirley I WONDER WHY Photographs by the author. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1963. $1.95
A lovely book which many feel is for adults. However, one teacher has used it to bring out the children's feelings about nature and beauty. She leaves out the last photo of a little black girl saying, "I wonder why some people don't like me?"

*Clarke, Mollie CONGO BOY, AN AFRICAN FOLK TALE Illus. by Beatrice Darwin. New York: Scholastic Book Services, 1966. (1-3) paper $.50
Children love this tale retold by Mollie Clarke. Scholastic Book Services has published a series of inexpensive paperback books for K-3 which are good literature. Prices range from $.35 to $1.00. A small number are black oriented.

PS 002916

Dean, Leigh THE LOOKING DOWN GAME Illus. by Paul Giovanopoulos. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. (2-5) $2.95
When seven-year-old Edgar moves into a new city neighborhood, he is too shy and lonely to look up. When he discovers first a beetle, then a feather at his feet, he then decides looking down is fun. The looking down game continues for a year, providing us with keen observations of city sights and sounds as seen by a small boy. One day Edgar finds a boy in a tree who offers to help him climb up. Edgar decides to "find out what being up was like." Attractive, realistic illustrations lend warmth to Edgar's game.

Desbarats, Peter GABRIELLE AND SELENA Illus. by Nancy Grossman. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1968. (1-3) $2.95; $3.09 net
White Gabrielle and black Selena decide to change places in each other's homes. Their parents play a joke on them, getting one to sweep the floor, the other to wash the dishes. This is a warm story in which individuals are more important than race. Illustrations are genuine and endearing.

Gill, Joan HUSH, JON! Illus. by Tracy Sugarman. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1968. (K-3) $3.50
This story with an inner city setting has Jon finding that entertaining his baby sister can be as much fun as visiting the zoo or playing with his best friend. It is warm and sensitively written. The illustrations bring out the individual character of Jon, his mother, and his baby sister.

Haas, Dorothy A SPECIAL PLACE FOR JONNY Illus. by David K. Stone. Racine: Whitman Publishing Co., 1966. (K-2) OOP $1.29 net
Jonny's insecurity and loneliness on the first day of school are overcome when he meets the fruit man and realizes how good it is to know how to count, read, and write. Attractive, colorful illustrations indicate Jonny's "place" in an integrated city school.

*Hill, Elizabeth Starr EVAN'S CORNER Illus by Nancy Grossman. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967. (K-3) $3.95; $3.59 net
A little boy's desire for a place of his own in a crowded apartment forms the substance of this true-to-life story. Evan's mother lovingly suggests a corner, and Evan fixes it up to his satisfaction. His ingenuity and industry are brought out in an appealing way.

Horvath, Betty HOORAY FOR JASPER Illus. by Fermin Rocker. New York: Franklin Watts, 1966. (K-2) $3.50; $2.63 net
A delightful story about a little boy who wants to be bigger. He tries many things, like eating carrots, with no success. Then one day he is just the right size to rescue his friend's kitten in a small tree. Everyone shouts "Hooray for Jasper." Drawings show a black family in a suburban setting.

Horvath, Betty JASPER MAKES MUSIC Illus. by Fermin Rocker. New York: Franklin Watts, 1966. (K-3) $3.50; $2.63 net
Jasper wishes to buy a guitar. But he needs new shoes first, and there is no money. Grandpa has an idea. He "discovers" a child's shovel, and Jasper is in the shovelling business.

Justus, May NEW BOY IN SCHOOL Illus. by Joan Balfour Payne. New York: Hastings House Publishers, 1963. (2-4) $3.25
Lennie's family moves to Tennessee. He doesn't like the idea of going to school with strangers, especially all white ones. The other children make efforts to include him, and his father offers some helpful ideas. Eventually his self-consciousness is forgotten.

*Keats, Ezra Jack SNOWY DAY Illus. by the author. New York: The Viking Press, 1962. (N-2) paper $.60; $3.00; $2.96 net
A gentle story of pre-school Peter's enjoyment of a snow storm in the city. The text of this picture-book contains some delicate humor and is well-integrated with the colorful, collage illustrations.

*Keats, Ezra Jack WHISTLE FOR WILLIE Illus by the author. New York: The Viking Press, 1964. (N-2) $3.50; $3.37 net
Another popular book in which Peter is trying to learn to whistle. He even puts on his father's hat to make him feel grown up. He finally succeeds and his dog, Willie, comes running.

*Keats, Ezra Jack PETER'S CHAIR Illus. by the author. New York: Harper Row, 1967. (N-3) $3.95; $3.79 net
Peter finds his place in the family after the arrival of a baby sister.

*Keats, Ezra Jack JOHN HENRY, AN AMERICAN LEGEND Retold and illustrated by the author. New York: Pantheon Books, 1965. (1-5) $3.50; $3.59 net
This folk pioneer legend is in ballad form without rhyme. It sings and swings as John Henry lifts his hammer. His death is gracefully handled at the conclusion.

Kempner, Carol Ravich NICHOLAS Illus. by the author. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1968. (K-2) OOP $4.50
This colorfully illustrated book is about four-year-old Nicholas who wants to ride the subway. While his mother is working, he goes by himself and has some exciting experiences. Children who listen to this story may try the same thing--so watch it!

Kramon, Florence HIPPOLITO AND EUGENE G. Illus. by Charles Bracke. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1967. (K-3) $2.95; $2.97 net
Hippolito is a dark-skinned little boy who could be an Afro-American. Everyone makes fun of his name. After trying to find a famous man by that name without success, he goes to his mother. She explains that he is named for his father and grandfather, and a person's name is not as important as what he is.

Leach, Maria HOW THE PEOPLE SANG THE MOUNTAINS UP, HOW AND WHY STORIES. New York: The Viking Press, 1967. (K-5) $3.75; $3.56 net
These folk tales are from many lands. They vary in length from two lines to two pages. Some are taken from the South Carolina Negro ("Why Cat Eats First"), the Zulu, and Akan-Ashanti ("Why Spider Has a Little Head and a Big Behind").

Lewis, Mary THE HALLOWEEN KANGAROO Illus. by Richard Lewis. New York: Ives Washburn, Inc., 1964. (2-5) $2.95
Jeffrey decides to wear a kangaroo costume at the school Halloween party. When the zipper gets stuck, he is forced to remain in the hot and bothersome outfit. Suspense is sustained as the children search for the school hamster who has disappeared. What a surprise to find him in the pocket of Jeffrey's kangaroo suit!

*Lexau, Joan M. BENJIE Illus. by Don Bolognese. New York: The Dial Press, 1964. (1-3) $3.50; $3.39 net
Benjie, who is too shy to talk to anyone, lives with his grandmother in an apartment house. After hunting for a treasured earring lost by his grandmother, he discovers that his shyness is gone.

*Lexau, Joan M. I SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN BED Illus. by Syd Hoff. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965. (1-4) $2.50; $2.57 net
"Some days it doesn't pay to get up. Some days you can't do anything right." Sam puts his shoes on the wrong feet, is late for school, etc. Children identify strongly with this character. Sam tells his own story with a sophisticated child's humor.

Palmer, Candida SNOW STORM BEFORE CHRISTMAS Illus. by H. Tom Hall. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1965. (1-4) $2.75; $2.69 net
Two brothers have fun Christmas shopping--a lampshade for their mother and a goldfish for their sister. How they trudge home in a heavy snow storm and later fix the damaged gifts makes an exciting and satisfying story.

Palmer, Candida A RIDE ON HIGH Illus. by H. Tom Hall. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1966. (2-5) $2.95; $2.82 net
Tony and his friend ride the subway in order to get to the junior high football game. As they leave the elevated platform, their return fare falls through the platform flooring. This is a lively city adventure story in which the boys solve their transportation problem with courage and intelligence.

Randall, Blossom E. FUN FOR CHRIS Illus. by Eunice Young Smith. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1956. (K-1) $2.50; $1.88 net
Light-skinned Chris and brown Toby enjoy playing together; they are pre-school children. When an older child mentions skin color, Chris's mother gives a sensible and loving explanation for color differences.

Rollins, Charlemae CHRISTMAS GIF' Illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1963. (2-8) $4.95
Mrs. Rollins, a well-known Afro-American librarian, has compiled this anthology of Christmas poems, songs, stories, and recipes written by and about black Americans. Some poems are suitable for reading to first and second grade children. "How Come Christmas" is included.

*Scott, Ann Herbert SAM Illus. by Symeon Shimin. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1967. (K-3) $3.65
Six-year-old Sam lives with his family in the city. He needs something to do, but each member of his family is busy and passes him on to the next one. When he bursts into tears, his mother gives him some pie dough and a rolling pin. He makes a raspberry tart! Beautiful sepia drawings which emphasize child qualities are blended in well with the text.

*Seronde, Adele ASK A DAFFODIL A *Phonetic Poetry Book* Illus. by the author. Cambridge, Mass.: Wenkart Publishing Co., 1968. (N-3) paper $1.95
An original book of short poems in which the color drawings are an integral part of the mood of the poem. The author has succeeded in making a real poem out of the most simple and basic elements of language. Subjects of poems include city themes such as subways and parking meters as well as birds and flowers. Here is a sample:

Dreams are deer
that leap away
to forests of sleep
at gleam of day.

Sharpe, Stella Gentry TOBE Photographs by Charles Farrell. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1939. (K-3) $3.00
This classic consists of one-page stories about the life of an Afro-American farm family as seen through the eyes of six-year-old Tobe. It is informational, and simply written with warm humor. Photographs are excellent.

Tarry, Ellen and Marie Hall Ets MY DOG RINTY. New York: The Viking Press, 1946; new edition, 1964. (2-4) $3.00; $2.96 net
The photographs in the edition I saw showed outdated clothing styles; but according to a recent bibliography, the new photographs are excellent and present a good view of Harlem. The story of Rinty's escapades is action-oriented.

Udry, Janice May WHAT MARY JO SHARED Illus. by Eleanor Mill. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1966. (K-3) $2.95; $2.21 net
Scholastic Book Services paper $.45
Shy Mary Jo's efforts to find something unusual to share with her class in an integrated school are unsuccessful until she thinks of sharing her father!

*Vance, Eleanor G. JONATHAN Illus. by John Rice. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1966. (N-2) OOP $3.50; $3.48 net
A beautifully illustrated book about four-year-old Jonathan who is always asking why. Where does fire go? How do little boys grow into men? There is rhyme, rhythm, and imagination in this story.

Vogel, Ilse-Margaret HELLO HENRY Illus. by the author. New York: Parents' Magazine Press, 1965. (N-2) $3.50; $3.00 net
Light-skinned Henry, a pre-school child, gets lost in the supermarket and discovers black Henry, who is also lost. They have all sorts of imaginary adventures in the store, after which they find their mothers. We are reassured that they continue to play together.

Whiting, Helen A. NEGRO FOLK TALES FOR PUPILS IN PRIMARY GRADES, BOOK I Illus. by Lois M. Jones. Washington, D. C.: Associated Publishers, 1939. (K-3) $1.40
This book was designed as a supplementary reader for primary pupils. It contains short, simply told African and Afro-American folk stories with striking black and white illustrations. Titles include "How People Began," "Wind," and "How Spiders Started."

Williamson, Stan THE NO-BARK DOG Illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1962. (1-3) $1.00
Timothy, who lives in an integrated city neighborhood, acquires a new dog, Top. He is a find dog--except he doesn't bark. Timothy remains hopeful in spite of everyone's discouraging remarks. His patience is rewarded. The text seems to have a limited vocabulary, but the illustrations are colorful and gay.

Zeitlin, Patty CASTLE IN MY CITY, SONGS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN Illus. by children in Watts, California, with Lucille Krasne. San Carlos, California: Golden Gate Junior Books, 1968. (N-3) $3.95; $3.79 net
These original songs are on topics familiar to city children--worms, cats, dogs, rainy days, home, and trains. Marked rhythms make them fun to sing (calypso, blues with bounce, etc.). Children love to join in on the choruses. This is a good way to introduce young children to poetry. Mrs. Zeitlin, a Head Start teacher who wrote the songs, has successfully used them in music demonstrations with happy participation by the children. Lucille Krasne, who taught free art classes in Watts, set the format for the children's drawings.

NON-FICTION

*Adams, Russell L. GREAT NEGROES PAST AND PRESENT Illus. by Eugene Winslow. Chicago: Afro-Am Publishing Co., 1964. paper $2.95; $5.95
This reference book contains pictorial-biographical sketches of the lives of outstanding Afro-Americans and their African antecedents. A valuable reference tool for teachers of all grades. Illustrations are well arranged. Primary grade children enjoy just looking through it.

Aliki A WEED IS A FLOWER: THE LIFE OF GEORGE W. CARVER Illus. by the author. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1965. (1-3) $4.25 net
The vocabulary of this picture-book biography seems suited to a second-grade reader. It is simply and appealingly written. One questionable illustration, in which hooded men kidnap baby George and his mother, seems to be no problem to youngsters who are already familiar with Dr. Carver's life. Some first graders were not interested in this story.

*Clayton, Edward MARTIN LUTHER KING: THE PEACEFUL WARRIOR Illus. by David Hodges. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1964. (4-7) $3.75
Although this book is written for older children, it could be read to younger ones: they are eager for information about Dr. King. It is well written and full of action. Dr. King's struggles as a child to overcome impulsive actions would be helpful to all children.

Cohen, Robert THE COLOR OF MAN Photographs by Kenneth Heyman. New York: Random House, 1968. (5-9) $3.95; $3.99 net
Parts of this book for older children and adults could be used by a teacher to explain to little children about skin, hair, and eye color of people all over the world. Mr. Heyman's photographs--many of black, brown, freckled, and blond children--are endearing.

Epstein, Sam and Beryl GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER, NEGRO SCIENTIST Illus. by William Moyers. Champaign, Ill.: The Garrard Publishing Co., 1960. A *Discovery Book*. (2-4) $2.19 net
Discovery Books are a new series of adventurous, historical stories about famous people written for children in the primary grades. All historical facts have been researched. Out of 45 books published so far, three are about famous Afro-Americans. This book gives a well-rounded picture of Dr. Carver's life.

Hughes, Langston THE FIRST BOOK OF NEGROES Illus. by Ursula Koering. New York: Franklin Watts, 1952. (1-3) Out of print
The history of Afro-Americans is told by his grandmother to dark-skinned Terry, six years old. Although this book is out of print, it is available in some libraries; and I have included it because it is the only Afro-American history book which is written simply enough for the youngest readers.

Hughes, Langston FAMOUS AMERICAN NEGROES New York: Dodd, Mead, 1954. (4-6) OOP $3.50
Although these biographical sketches were written for older children, they can be used for reference at the primary level.

Hughes, Langston FAMOUS NEGRO HEROES OF AMERICA New York: Dodd, Mead, 1958. (4-6) $3.50
Useful as a reference tool.

Lerner, Marguerite Rush, M.D. RED MAN, WHITE MAN, AFRICAN CHIEF: THE STORY OF SKIN COLOR Illus. by George Overlie. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, Inc., 1960. (2-5) OOP $2.95 net
This attractively illustrated book explains that melanin in pigment cells determines skin color. It points out that all kinds of creatures have some melanin in their bodies, resulting in varying degrees of brownness, from freckles to "yellow" skin to black. Younger children prefer Paul Showers's book.

McGovern, Ann RUNAWAY SLAVE: THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN Illus. by R. M. Powers. New York: The Four Winds Press, 1965. (2-4) $2.95; $3.27 net
A dramatic biography of a courageous woman who conducted slaves to freedom. It is full of excitement and is uniquely illustrated. Some Roxbury children like this book, but younger children do not respond to it.

Millender, Dharathula H. CRISPUS ATTUCKS, BOY OF VALOR Illus. by Gray Morrow. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1965. Childhood of Famous Americans Series. (3-5) $2.50 net
Crispus Attucks, the first to fall in the Boston Massacre (1770), was born a slave, ran away from his master in Framingham, and became a harpooner aboard a whaling vessel. John Adams said of him, "...the English-speaking world will never forget his noble daring and his excusable rashness in the holy cause of liberty." Parts of this book could be read to first and second grade children; however, the description of the Massacre may be too much for them. While the authenticity of the dialogue is questionable, younger children would be inspired by Mr. Attucks's story.

Patterson, Lillie BOOKER T. WASHINGTON: LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE Illus. by Anthony D'Adamo. Champaign, Ill.: The Garrard Publishing Co., 1962. A *Discovery Book* (see earlier Epstein entry on p. 11). (2-4) $2.19 net
This book is far superior to an earlier biography by Augusta Stevenson, which jumps awkwardly from childhood to the adulthood of Mr. Washington. Interesting and authentic details of his adult life are included in the Patterson biography.

Patterson, Lillie FREDERICK DOUGLASS: FREEDOM FIGHTER Illus. by Gray Morrow. Champaign, Ill.: The Garrard Publishing Co., 1965. A *Discovery Book* (see earlier Epstein entry on p. 11). (2-4) $2.19 net
Frederick Douglass's remarkable story is retold with the same care found in the other Discovery Books. Mr. Douglass escaped from slavery to become an outstanding writer, orator and post-Civil War statesman.

Pine, Tillie S. and Joseph Levine THE AFRICANS KNEW Illus. by Ann Grifalconi. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1967. (K-3) $3.50; 3.28 net
"Africans knew how to do things long before other people did." Ancient Africans smelted iron and made tools, musical instruments, and irrigation ditches! The authors relate ancient knowledge to today's world and include some do-it-yourself projects. The book is clearly written and handsomely illustrated.

Showers, Paul LOOK AT YOUR EYES Illus. by Paul Galdone. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1962. A *Let's Read and Find Out Science Book.* (K-3) $3.50
Illustrations are inter-ethnic.

*Showers, Paul YOUR SKIN AND MINE Illus. by Paul Galdone. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1962. A *Let's Read and Find Out Science Book.* (K-3) $3.50
This book is clearly written and has inter-ethnic illustrations. The youngest children prefer it to Dr. Lerner's book.

*Sutherland, Efua PLAYTIME IN AFRICA Photographs by Willis E. Bell. New York: Atheneum Press, 1962. (K-3) $3.50; $3.41 net
The simple text mixes well with charming photographs of children at play. Their activities indicate that contemporary African children *are* civilized.

OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS ABOUT THE AFRO-AMERICAN

Baker, Augusta BOOKS ABOUT NEGRO LIFE FOR CHILDREN. New York: New York Public Library, 1957.
Includes books for children in kindergarten through high school.

Campbell and Hall, Inc. CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON NEGRO LIFE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE July 1967. Not annotated. $.15
A publisher's price list prepared by three Newton, Massachusetts, school librarians: Marjorie J. Gustafson, Helen Promboin, and Barbara Smith.

Daltry, Patience M. "Horizons Broaden" in *The Christian Science Monitor*, Children's Book Page, May 2, 1968.
A discussion of some new books with black heroes.

Friends, Society of, and The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith BOOKS FOR FRIENDSHIP. 1962. Annotated.
Titles are chosen to foster allegiance to family and group, as well as brotherhood and peace in the Jewish and Christian tradition. Mostly multi-racial stories with a number about Afro-Americans.

Keating, Charlotte Matthews BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING. Tucson, Arizona: Palo Verdes Publishing Co., 1967.
A large collection of integrated books for young children, with extensive comments.

Koblitz, Minnie W. THE NEGRO IN SCHOOLROOM LITERATURE: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. New York: Center for Urban Education, 1966. Annotated. $.25
Covers books published between 1964 and 1966, and includes teaching materials for K-6. The literary quality is not considered.

Larrick, Nancy "All-White World of Children's books," *Saturday Review*, September 11, 1965, pp. 63ff.
A survey of publishers with discussion of books published from 1962 through 1964.

Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) CONFERENCE ON CURRICULUM MATERIALS FOR THE STUDY OF BLACK HISTORY, BIBLIOGRAPHY.
Boston: Metco, 178 Humboldt Avenue, 1968. Partially annotated. $1.50
SUPPLEMENT, 1969. $ .50
A comprehensive bibliography covering books for adults and all children. There is also a bibliography on films and film strips, and a listing of black inventors. METCO is a cooperative program whereby city children are bussed to suburban schools. Afro-Americans are primary compilers of this list.

Michigan Cooperatiave Curriculum Program, Committee on Elementary Education BIBLIOGRAPHY ON NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY. Lansing: State Department of Education, publication 547, 1965.
A comprehensive, annotated list of books of interest to all children and adults.

Millender, Dharathula H. "Through a Glass Darkly," *Library Journal*, December 15, 1967, pp. 4571ff.
Mrs. Millender, an Afro-American librarian, traces the representation of the Negro in books for children since 1900. The article includes titles for children of all ages and for adults. While all titles are not commented upon, many excellent examples of acceptable and unacceptable books are discussed.

Minneapolis Human Relations Committee, Hay Elementary School A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEGRO LIFE FOR PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE GRADES. Date unknown, but recent. Annotated.

Newton Committee for Fair Housing and Equal Rights SUGGESTED READING LIST FOR CHILDREN Distributed by the School Volunteer Project, Boston, date unknown.
A brief list covering N-3 and 4-6 reading levels. Stars indicate books in the Newton Public Library.

Robinson, Mrs. Beryl NEGRO LIFE AND HISTORY, A Selected List of Children's Books. Boston: Boston Public Library, 1967. Current supplements available free of charge. Annotated.
Mrs. Robinson, an Afro-American, is Reader's Advisor for the Children's Section. All book titles listed are available in the library.

Rollins, Charlemae WE BUILD TOGETHER, A Reader's Guide to Negro Life and Literature for Elementary and High School Use. Champaign, Ill.: National Council of Teachers of English, 1948, revised 1967. Annotated. $1.50
Charlemae Rollins, a well-known Afro-American librarian, has supervised publication of this 70-page book of carefully selected titles, covering books for children from K-9.

Wolfe, Anne G. ABOUT 100 BOOKS...A Gateway to Better Intergroup Understanding. Fifth edition. New York: The American Jewish Committee, Institute of Human Relations. Annotated. $.35
Covers books published from 1962-1965 which are multi-racial and appropriate for children from 3 to 16 years of age. Lists a number of stories with black heroes.

ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHERS

Afro-Am Publishing Co., Inc., 1727 Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60616
Associated Publishers, Inc., 1538 9th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
Atheneum Publishers, 122 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017
Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 4300 West 62nd St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46288
Coward-McCann, Inc., 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016
Crowell, Thomas Y., Co., 201 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10003
Dial Press, Inc., 750 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017
Dodd, Mead & Co., 79 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016
Doubleday & Co., Inc., 501 Franklin Ave., Garden City, N.Y. 11530
Follett Publishing Co., 201 N. Wells St., Chicago, Ill. 60606
The Four Winds Press, 50 W. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10036
Friendship Press, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y. 10027
Funk & Wagnalls Co., 380 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017
Garrard Publishing Co., 1607 N. Market St., Champaign, Ill. 61820
Golden Gate Junior Books, Box 398, San Carlos, Calif. 94070
Hale, E. M. & Co., Inc., 1201 S. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, Wisc 54701
Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 757 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10017
Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, Pa. 18512
Hastings House Publishers, Inc., 10 E. 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016
Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc., 383 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017
Ives & Washburn, Inc., 750 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017
Lerner Publications Co., 241 First Ave. North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55401
Lippincott, J. B., Co., E. Washington Sq., Philadelphia, Pa. 19105
Little Brown & Co., 34 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. 02106
McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036
National Council of Teachers of English, 508 So. 6th St., Champaign, Ill. 61820
Pantheon Books, Inc.: orders to Random House, Inc., Westminster, Md. 21157
Parents Magazine Press, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017
Prentice-Hall, Inc.: orders to Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632
Random House, Inc., 457 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
Scholastic Book Services, Scholastic Magazines, 50 W. 44th St., New York, N.Y. 10036
Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1 W. 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10018
University of North Carolina Press, Box 510, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
Viking Press, Inc., 625 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
Watts, Franklin, Inc., 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022
Wenkart, Heni, 4 Shady Hill Sq., Cambridge, Mass. 02138
Whitman, Albert & Co., 560 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill. 60606
Whitman Publishing Co.: orders to Western Publishing Co., Whitman Hobby Div., Dept. M, 1220 Mound Ave., Racine, Wisc. 53404

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